



Labor & Economic Briefing

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Here is a summary of headlining accomplishments from the last 30 days:

Encouraging Economic & Urban Development

Pfizer Secures Future in Michigan: After many productive discussions between Governor Granholm, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and Pfizer officials, the world's largest drug manufacturer announced that its global reorganization will result in more Pfizer employees in Michigan than in any other state in the nation. The highlights of the announcement included Kalamazoo County being named as the largest manufacturing location and one of two principal sites for veterinary medicine R&D as well as promised growth at the Ann Arbor laboratories.

MEDC #2 In Nation: The state of Michigan, led by the MEDC, has been named the number two state in the nation in Site Selection magazine's inaugural Competitiveness Award ranking. The new award, announced in the magazine's May issue, was created especially to recognize the accomplishments of state economic development agencies. The top five states in the annual ranking were as follows: Tennessee, Michigan, Illinois, North Carolina and New York.

Top Expansion Project in U.S.: Site Selection magazine has recognized AutoAlliance International in Flat Rock as one of the most powerful business expansions in the United States for 2002. In its May 2003 issue, the magazine praises the expansion as "one of the most significant business-retention stories in the history of Michigan." AutoAlliance International, a joint venture between Ford Motor Company and Mazda Motor Corporation, plans to invest approximately \$644 million in new machinery and equipment to prepare its existing manufacturing facility for new vehicle production.

2003 Michigan Life Sciences Corridor Funding to Fuel Technology Tri-Corridor Growth with \$30 Million Awarded to Top Proposals: Governor Jennifer M. Granholm announced that about \$30 million in Michigan Life Sciences Corridor funding was awarded May 28th to advance the research and commercialization of cutting-edge life sciences products. The Life Sciences Corridor is a key component of Granholm's Technology Tri-Corridor initiative, intended to capitalize on Michigan's strengths to make the state a leader in three fast-growing industry sectors. The other two components of the Technology Tri-Corridor are homeland security and emerging automotive technologies. This year's largest single award provides more than \$3.4 million in basic research funding for a Wayne State University project to integrate bioengineering and biocomputing for the advancement of computer-assisted surgery research. Other winning proposals for Michigan Life Sciences Corridor funds include a chemical test for the early detection of cancer, novel treatments of prostate cancer and the creation of a center specializing in new molecular diagnostic techniques for pancreatic cancer. Seneca Health Partners, based in Birmingham, received a \$1.5 million award to start a new health care venture capital fund. With this seed investment, the company pledged to raise an additional \$30 million in new venture capital. Venture capital has been instrumental in providing seed funding to Michigan life sciences startup companies. The MLSC fund has helped to leverage more than \$60 million in new venture capital as a result of fund investments. More than 50 new life sciences companies were created in Michigan in the past three years. Michigan's life sciences industry currently includes more than 500 companies with more than 31,000 workers and \$4.8 billion in annual sales. A complete list of 2003 Michigan Life Sciences Corridor funding award winners can be seen on the MEDC Web site at <http://www.michigan.org/lifescience>.

Local Officials Academy Trains Leaders to Utilize Economic Development Tools to Create New Jobs and Investment: The MEDC held a Local Officials Academy in Plymouth drawing a capacity crowd of 97 local government officials. It was one of a series of sessions held throughout the state designed to educate local officials on the tools available to foster economic development opportunities. Recent academies were held in Marquette, Traverse City and Grand Rapids. They are expected to reach a total of 300 local leaders from across the state.



**Governor
Jennifer M.
Granholm**

Two Redevelopment Projects to Create \$16 Million in New Investment in Detroit and Ecorse: MEDC has offered assistance to help redevelop two brownfield sites in Wayne County. The two projects, in Detroit and Ecorse, are expected to generate \$16 million in private investment and create 75 new jobs. The city of Detroit project involves a six parcel area at the corner of 7 Mile and Gratiot on the city's east side that will be redeveloped to increase needed retail space in the area. The long blighted property has a history of commercial uses including a filling station, auto repair shop, auto salvage yard, and office space. This project will include the demolition of existing structures to make way for the construction of 36,000 square-feet of retail space adjacent to an existing Kroger grocery store. The development received approval to capture up to \$517,500 in state and local taxes to be used for demolition and site preparation activities. This project is expected to create 75 new jobs and spur more than \$6 million in private investment. A mixed-use development is planned for a blighted 6-block parcel of property on Salliotte Avenue in Ecorse. The development will include 56 townhouse units, a full-service childcare center and a neighborhood-scale retail center. The project received approval to capture up to \$408,766 in state and local taxes to be used to demolish buildings and rebuild streetscape infrastructure to make way for the redevelopment. The project is expected to spur \$10 million in private investment.

Homeland Security Company's Expansion to Add 120 New Workers in Cascade Township: Assistance from MEDC has helped convince Smiths Aerospace to choose Cascade Township for a major homeland security expansion project. The company will create an integrated laboratory for avionics development, primarily for future military aircraft. The project is expected to create 214 new Michigan jobs over the next three years, including 120 directly by the company. Smiths Aerospace is a British-owned company that designs and produces integrated avionics equipment for the military and civilian aviation industry. The company's products are integrated into virtually every American and British military aircraft. Smiths Aerospace, which has a U.S. headquarters in Grand Rapids, weighed the advantages of expanding in nearby Cascade Township or a competing site in Maryland. The MEDC offered a high tech Single Business Tax credit worth \$2.1 million over the next nine years to help convince the company to grow in Michigan. The company's new offices and laboratory will take up 44,000 square feet in an existing facility on 36th Street in Cascade Township. The MEDC worked closely with The Right Place Program to make a solid business case for the company's expansion in Kent County. The company's increased operations will result in a net state revenue gain of more than \$4.6 million over the life of the Single Business Tax credits.

Eleven Michigan Communities to Utilize New Downtown Development Tool: The MEDC announced that 11 communities across the state have been chosen to participate in the new Blueprints for Michigan's Downtowns program. The program makes funding available to communities to develop and launch a downtown economic development action plan to address development challenges and encourage further growth. The MEDC received applications from 22 Michigan communities. The following have been chosen to participate through a competitive process (alphabetical order): Adrian, Battle Creek, Brighton, Buchanan, Cheboygan, Davison, Grand Haven, Jonesville, Middleville, Mt. Pleasant and Norway. The Blueprint communities will work with the MEDC and the national downtown consulting firm, HyettPalma, to formulate a downtown economic development action agenda. Developing the agenda will entail conducting a detailed market analysis of each of the participating communities, determining their long-term economic assets and challenges and creating an aggressive downtown action plan. The program was developed through a partnership made up of the MEDC, Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) and the Michigan Municipal League (MML).

Governor Breaks Ground on New Homeland Security R&D Facility in Ypsilanti Township: Governor Jennifer M. Granholm joined in the groundbreaking of Veridian's new research and development facility in Ypsilanti Township, calling it "an important step in creating a homeland security industry corridor in Michigan." Veridian is a leading provider of information-based systems for the Central Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense and National Security Agency. In choosing Ypsilanti Township over other potential locations in Ohio and Virginia, Veridian cited the opportunity to work closely with the University of Michigan, the availability of qualified workers for highly technical positions, and assistance offered by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). Veridian is expected to create 245 new jobs at the facility. According to an economic analysis conducted by the University of Michigan, it is estimated that Veridian's expansion will add another 121 indirect Michigan jobs as a result of increased economic activity. The expansion will provide an estimated \$32.1 million in revenue to the state over 16 years, resulting in a net gain for the state of more than \$23.5 million. The project is expected to generate more than \$401 million in personal income during that time.

MEDC Hosts 2003 Michigan IT Summit: The MEDC hosted the 5th Annual Michigan IT Summit on May 19th with the theme "Business Unusual," focusing on current trends and future innovations in technology which impact the Midwest region. Daniel Burrus, leading technology forecaster and business strategist, was the keynote speaker with a presentation on "Technostrategies: Creating and Sustaining Strategic Advantage," which identifies powerful strategies to creatively apply technology in the development of new products, services and outstanding customer experiences. The Michigan IT Summit (<http://www.itsummit.com>) is the only statewide conference for Michigan's information technology professionals and the Midwest's prime venue for showcasing new developments and business models for the IT industry.

Business Success Celebration: Top Michigan businesses, organizations and leaders were honored for their outstanding contributions to the state's economic vitality in 2002 at the sixth annual Business Success Celebration held at the end of April. Seventeen awards in eight areas of economic development excellence were presented. The businesses and communities honored helped spur more than \$2.7 billion in private investment and create more than 12,000 jobs in 2002.

University Summit Set: Planning is under way for the Governor's University Summit to be held on Wednesday, September 24, at the University Club in East Lansing. The Summit, co-sponsored by the MEDC and the Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan, is designed to acknowledge and enhance the important role universities play in economic development. The all-day, invitation-only event is expected to draw 200 high-ranking Michigan university officials. The agenda will include an array of discussions on the role of the university in economic development and technology transfer.

MEDC Announces Grants to Help Revitalize the "Thumb" Area Townships: The MEDC announced federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for the villages of Port Austin and Port Hope. The grants, totaling more than \$500,000, will help each village with downtown revitalization projects to help bring more private investment and jobs to the communities. Much of the downtown business district of Port Austin was devastated by fire in August of 2002. The CDBG funding will be used to help rebuild the downtown streetscape. As many as five businesses have agreed to rebuild in Port Austin's downtown as a result of the funding. This project is expected to create 12 new jobs. Port Hope plans to use the grant to build a water and sewer extension to accommodate the construction of a new medical facility. The project is expected to create 10 new jobs.

MEDC Announces Grant to Help Revitalize Downtown Tittabawassee Township: The MEDC announced a \$310,350 federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for Tittabawassee Township, which is expected to spur more than \$6.2 million in private investment and create 12 jobs. The township will use the funding to help pay for the burial of utility lines, drain repairs and streetscape improvements to facilitate the rebuild of a family owned and operated grocery store. The old grocery store building will be rehabbed to house a new hardware store to serve the community.

Broadband Authority Makes First Official Loan to Expand Service: The Michigan Broadband Development Authority (MBDA) announced it had closed its first loan to improve broadband access in the state. The loan, to ISP Wireless Inc. (a fixed wireless broadband Internet service provider based in Alma, Michigan) is being used to expand service to the cities of Beaverton, Clare, Coleman, Gladwin, Hemlock, Ithaca and Rosebush. ISP Wireless currently provides service to customers in Alma, Mt. Pleasant, Breckenridge and Shepherd. The Broadband Authority's financing will now allow ISP to purchase additional tower antenna and customer premise equipment (modems and small antennas) for these new territories. The MBDA (<http://www.broadbandauthority.org/>) was charged by the legislature to deploy and enhance the availability of broadband service in Michigan, particularly in underserved rural and urban communities..

Protecting Worker Safety

Governor Declares June as Youth Employment Month in Michigan: Governor Jennifer M. Granholm issued an Executive Declaration in observance of Youth Employment Month for June 2003 to educate employers about legal and safe working environments for the state's working teens. This summer approximately 355,300 teenagers aged 16-19 are expected to seek jobs in Michigan, and for many it will be their first jobs. The Michigan Department of Consumer & Industry Services is kicking off a month-long campaign to educate employers about child labor laws. The CIS Bureau of Workers' & Unemployment Compensation's Wage and Hour Division is working in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor Wage & Hour Division as part of a national campaign by visiting employers to pass out materials and discuss legal aspects of employing minors in Michigan. The educational campaign will include visits to retail and fast food establishments where the majority of teenagers are employed and to school districts which are responsible for distributing work permits. According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), approximately 70 teens die every year in the U.S. from work-related injuries. About 77,000 teens are injured enough to warrant a hospital emergency room visit. Michigan minors are required to have a work permit, which can be obtained in any Michigan local school district, intermediate school district, public school academy, or non public school. Generally, youths must be a minimum of 14 years old for most jobs, however children as young as 11 can work as a golf caddy or sports referee. For more information, contact the Wage and Hour Division at (517) 322-1825 or visit <http://www.michigan.gov/bwuc>.

Worker Death at Ford Field Results in MIOSHA Penalties Totaling \$556,000 against Two Companies: The conclusion of the nine-month investigation of a fatal work accident at Ford Field MIOSHA citations and penalties against Brockman Equipment, Inc. for \$286,000, and Thomarios Painting for \$270,000. Thomarios Painting was a subcontractor on the Lions' Ford Field stadium construction site. Brockman Equipment, Inc. rented two aerial lifts to Thomarios, including a Condor 150S aerial work platform. On July 30, 2002, Thomarios painter Gjon Gojcay was in the Condor and was painting trusses more than 120 feet above the surface on the east side of the stadium. At about 10:15 a.m., the outrigger of the Condor lifted off the ground for the second time and the lift fell to the east, landing in the lower concrete seating area and fatally injuring Gojcay. While Gojcay was painting the trusses, a Thomarios foreman and a Hunt/Jenkins (general contractor) concrete superintendent were discussing the use of mats under the Condor's outriggers. During their conversation, both men observed one of the Condor's rear outriggers raise approximately 10 inches off the surface. Based on the MIOSHA General Duty clause, at this point the foreman should have stopped all operations and attempted an immediate rescue of the worker. Instead the foreman told Gojcay to finish what he was doing, and then come down slowly and get ready for the next move.

CIS Presents Horizon Technology Group with State Award for Outstanding Safety & Health Record: Horizon Technology Group's (HTG) Wyandotte Division received the Consultation Education and Training Bronze Award for an outstanding safety and health record. The CET Bronze Award recognizes leadership and commitment to workplace safety and health resulting in significant improvement of their Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Act (MIOSHA) record. The HTG Wyandotte Division achieved their results by a re-commitment to workplace safety and health, including: a revitalized safety committee; regular safety walkthroughs; and continuous training and accountability, both on the part of their managers, and team members. The site restricted its case rate below 50 percent of industry rate and reduced its injury and illness rate by 50 percent or more in the last three years. The HTG Wyandotte Division is a full-service facility specializing in the cold forming and machining of stainless steel and carbon steel components.

Assisting Jobless Workers

Applications Mailed to Those Potentially Eligible for Federal Benefits Granted To Jobless Airline Industry Workers:

Workers in Michigan's airline and related industries who have lost their jobs may be in line for federal unemployment benefits, and the state mailed notices to those who may be potentially eligible. Recently approved federal legislation grants up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits to laid off workers in the nation's airline and related industries. The Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation program for displaced airline workers (TEUC-A) was signed into law by President Bush on April 16. The program provides federal jobless benefits to workers in the airline and airline-related industries who were laid off on or after September 11, 2001. The layoff must have been due at least in part to one of three reasons: Reductions in airline service because of terrorist attacks, Closure of an airport as a result of terrorist actions or security measures, or the military conflict with Iraq. Workers may qualify if they were employed by an air carrier, a facility at an airport or by a producer or supplier to an air carrier. There are at least 2,000 workers in the airline and airline service industries in Michigan who have either filed for, or are already, collecting unemployment benefits and these workers would likely qualify for the extra federal benefits. However, that the number may become greater since TEUC-A also covers those working for employers who supply the airline industry.

Workforce Transition Section (WTS) Assists Employers and Displaced Workers: The Workforce Transition Section (WTS) responded to 34 notices of planned plant closures or mass layoffs in the past month. Contact was made with employers and union representatives in response to receipt of a Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) notice, letter, phone call, newspaper article, or other means of notification. A brief overview of available dislocated worker services was given, and depending on the number of jobs impacted, a formal on-site Rapid Response meeting was scheduled or arrangements were made for the local Michigan Works! Agency to meet with the affected employees to provide information on services that are available.

Other services provided:

- ♦ Conducted nine Rapid Response meetings with employers (and union representatives, where employees are represented by a collective bargaining agreement) to provide detailed information on dislocated worker services and gather information on the closing/layoff that will enable Michigan Works! service providers to assist the affected workers with the transition to new employment.
- ♦ Reviewed 17 new Trade Act petitions filed with the WTS. Petitions were checked for completeness and accuracy, logged in for internal tracking purposes, and forwarded to the U.S. Department of Labor for investigation and determination.
- ♦ Conducted 12 information meetings in various areas of the state for workers certified under the Trade Act.

There were three new Trade Certifications for this period.

- ♦ WTS staff (three Rapid Response consultants, two trade analysts, section manager and secretary) responded to 253 phone calls and 51 e-mails from individuals, company or union representatives, and service providers who requested information or clarification of issues related to the WARN Act, dislocated worker services, or the Trade Act.

Matching Employers & Workers via the Internet

New Career Portal Website Launched: Michigan's new Online Career Portal was launched on April 22 on [michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov) (<http://www.michigan.gov/careers>). The portal features the Michigan Talent Bank, access to more than 400 occupational reports (MOIScripts), information on career education, and a listing job fairs. State and national resources target job seekers, employers, students, and parents.

More Than 30,000 Resumes Added to Talent Bank: More than 30,000 resumes were added in April to the Michigan Talent Bank bringing the total searchable resume count to 606,778. There was a 37 percent increase from the previous month of total job openings with 21,535 posted. New business registrations were at 889 in April.

Protecting Consumers

Michigan to Receive \$12.6 million in Wall Street Settlement: Office of Financial and Insurance Services Commissioner Linda A. Watters announced that Michigan stands to receive \$12.6 million as a result of settlement between securities regulators and Wall Street firms related to alleged conflicts of interest at brokerage houses. The allegations were leveled against brokerage houses where analysts recommended stocks due to improper influence from their investment banking colleagues. Under the terms of the settlement the firms are also required to distribute \$30 million over a period of five years to the Investor Protection Trust (IPT). That settlement followed joint investigations by state and federal regulators of allegations of undue influence of investment banking interests on securities research at brokerage firms, including: Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc. ("Bear Stearns"); Credit Suisse First Boston, LLC ("CSFB"); Goldman Sachs & Co. ("Goldman"); Lehman Brothers, Inc. ("Lehman"); J.P. Morgan Securities, Inc. ("J.P. Morgan"); Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Incorporated ("Merrill Lynch"); Morgan Stanley & Co. Incorporated ("Morgan Stanley"); Citigroup Global Markets Inc. f/k/a Salomon Smith Barney, Inc. ("SSB"); UBS Warburg LLC ("UBS"); and U.S. Bancorp Piper Jaffray Inc. ("Piper Jaffray").

Providing More Efficient Services to Keep Business Costs Down

Michigan Earns Favorable Rating for Workers' Compensation Costs: One of the costs of doing business in any state is that of providing workers' compensation benefits to workers injured on the job. A recent national study shows that Michigan is doing a pretty good job of keeping those costs down. The study compared workers compensation premiums among the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Michigan dropped to 30th in the study, which is a substantial improvement over 2000 when the state had the 23rd highest average premium. Employer policy premiums are developed by using a dollar value per hundred dollars of payroll, for more than 380 code classifications based on job type and the risk of injury associated with the job. For example, an employer would pay less than \$1.00 in premium for every \$100 of payroll for a secretary in the clerical classification. In a much more hazardous job classification, such as a logger, the employer would be required to pay as much as \$35 for each \$100 in payroll. In the national study, California ranked number one in assessing the highest premium at \$5.23 per hundred dollars of payroll, while North Dakota had the lowest rate at \$1.24 per hundred dollars of payroll. Even with its large number of industrial classifications, Michigan's average cost was \$2.25 per hundred dollars of payroll in 2002. The cost of providing workers' compensation insurance is driven by the weekly benefits paid, the medical benefits paid, and the efficiency of the system that provides for the delivery of those benefits. Michigan employers currently enjoy a very favorable climate for workers' compensation costs.

Promoting Energy Efficiency & Protecting Environment

MPSC Releases Michigan Energy Appraisal: Summer 2003 Report: The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) released the "Michigan Energy Appraisal: Summer 2003." The appraisal, published since 1978, reviews the projected prices and availability of energy in Michigan over the summer months. According to the report, Michigan's energy supplies appear to be in generally good shape for the summer's peak driving and cooling season. Michigan's gasoline prices are down more than 28 cents per gallon from the highs reached earlier this year. If crude oil supplies remain stable and refineries and pipelines operate without unplanned interruptions, gasoline prices should escape the volatility seen in the summers of 2000 and 2001. The Energy Appraisal is available at: <http://cis.state.mi.us/mpsc/reports/energy>.

CIS Energy Office Awards \$20,000 Grant to Increase Use of Alternative Fuels and Vehicles in Detroit Area: The CIS Energy Office awarded a \$20,000 grant to Downriver Community Conference to increase the use of alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) in Southeast Michigan. The grant will be used to support the administration of the Detroit Area Clean Cities Program which promotes the use of AFVs and increased development of alternative fuel refueling sites. The grant will help stimulate economic development in Southeast Michigan and improve the state's energy security through the use of domestically produced alternative fuels. The Clean Cities Program promotes voluntary AFV use and infrastructure development to help the U.S. achieve energy security and improved air quality with clean burning, domestically produced alternative fuels. Grant funds are provided by the U.S. Department of Energy and will be administered by the CIS Energy Office, which promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy to Michigan's residents, public institutions and businesses.

Providing Career Development Resources

Michigan Rehabilitation Services Assists Michiganians with Disabilities: Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) assisted 412 Michiganians with disabilities into jobs during April 2003. During the same period, job-related services, such as training and vocational counseling, were provided to 996 Michiganians with disabilities who are preparing to enter the job market. MRS also provided disability-related services to 196 Michigan businesses during April 2003. Examples of these services are helping employers retain at-risk workers, providing information on tax benefits related to disability, providing ergonomic assessments, and referring new hires.

Michigan Receives \$1.3 million Reemployment Services Initiative Grant: Michigan received a \$1.3 Million Reemployment Services Initiative Grant for Program Year 2003, beginning July 1st. This grant funds intensive job search activities for job seekers likely to have an extended period of unemployment or those in targeted industries and occupations. Services are delivered through local Michigan Works! agencies.

Office of Postsecondary Services/Career Development Co-Sponsors Community College Educator Forum: Postsecondary Services/MDCD co-sponsored the third "Day of Dialog" on April 25 involving Michigan public community colleges "Michigan Community Colleges: Partners in Teacher Education." This event, held at Mott Community College in Flint, provided a forum for community college teacher prep educators. Specifically, they were able to hear what their university college of education counterparts do to assist future educators transitioning from the community college to the four-year teach education program. Transfer, articulation, and admissions procedures were presented and discussed. In attendance were representatives from Ferris State University, Eastern Michigan University, University of Michigan - Dearborn, Oakland University, Western Michigan University, and Spring Arbor University. Additionally, Dr. Cheri St. Arnauld, National Director of Teacher Education Programs at Maricopa Community College, presented a 50-state review of teacher preparation programs and provided a forum for participants to work in teams, share experiences, identify roadblocks, and discuss the best ways to prepare future Michigan teachers.

Office of Postsecondary Services/Career Development Hosts Workshop for Career Schools: Postsecondary Services staff held the Fifth Annual Proprietary School Workshop on April 25 in Okemos with 118 attendees representing 68 Michigan career schools participated. Schools represented included those teaching aircraft dispatch, computer skills, construction trades, health care, hypnosis, and paramedics. The longevity of three career schools was recognized: National Institute of Technology in Southfield (1944), Carnegie Institute in Troy (1947), and Dorsey School of Business, Inc., in Roseville (1949). Dennis Stockemer, President of the Dorsey Business Schools, and board member of the Michigan Association of Career Schools (MACS) delivered the luncheon presentation. Lunch was provided courtesy of MACS. The Proprietary School Web site (<http://www.michiganps.net>) was unveiled, which allows career schools to enter much of their license renewal information online, including enrollment data, tuition and contact information. This information will immediately appear on the Web site, an advantage to the schools and their prospective students.

Adult Education Drafts Grant Applications for Workshops and Literacy Project: Adult Education drafted a grant application to provide funding for adult education programs to host and design their own workshops. The grant will also provide support to the trainers for The Bridges to Practice (learning disabilities awareness) training. Another application was drafted to provide grant monies for Michigan Literacy Inc. to positively impact literacy rates statewide. The grant will provide "Train the Trainer," Bridges to Practice, and tutor training components.

General Educational Development (GED) Hosts Training for Examiners; Nearly 19,000 Certificates Issued: The General Education Development staff held a statewide GED examiner training April 2 in Flint with 112 people attending. During April, five applications for pre-GED 2002 Certificates were received and reviewed, and certificates were issued; 6,065 Oklahoma Scoring Service (OSS) data records received and verified; 1,375 OSS data records were processed and post-GED 2002 Certificates were issued. During 2003 to date, 18,654 certificates have been issued and 1,645 technical customer assistance (correspondence, transcripts, phone calls & e-mails) contacts have been made; 283 records (for locally issued pre-GED 2002 Certificates) were entered into the MDCD state test data system, and 97,586 entries are pending.

Office of Career and Technical Preparation (OCTP) Provides Grant Technical Assistance: The Office of Career and Technical Preparation (OCTP) provided technical assistance to all 25 Workforce Development Board/Education Advisory Group regions for the submission of their Perkins, Tech Prep, and Career Prep grants for the 2003-04 year. OCTP staff teamed with the Michigan Department of Education electronic grant system (MEGS) to support and assist with the activity. Grant applications were due May 1, 2003, and staff are reviewing and responding to any revisions or changes using the electronic format.

Office of Career and Technical Preparation (OCTP) Sponsors First Videoconference: OCTP sponsored its first videoconference for curriculum dissemination for 14 sites around the state on April 22. The conference goal was to present the new Business, Management, Marketing and Technology curriculum developed by the state. More than 200 participants were able to receive the information. In addition, the complete curriculum is available on the MDCD Web site for the field to access and implement for the 2003-04 school year. This will impact more than 60,000 students statewide.

Office of Career and Technical Preparation (OCTP) Hosts Teacher Education University: OCTP planned and participated in the biannual Teacher Education University meeting on May 8-9 for universities that received grants for teacher recruitment and retention from OCTP. The day provided state staff and university participants with information and the opportunity to present and discuss teacher preparation and retention issues. There is also another meeting planned for September due to the critical nature of the issue of teacher supply and retention.